



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,381	01/22/2004	Hieu Van Tran	2102397-992231	1706
26379	7590	08/02/2006	EXAMINER	
DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP			DINH, SON T	
2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE			ART UNIT	
E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248			PAPER NUMBER	

2824

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,381

Applicant(s)

TRAN ET AL.

Examiner

Son T. Dinh

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41,50-56,61-67,69,71-74,76-79,81-83 and 85-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 41,50-52,54,56,61-67,69,71-74,76-79,81-83 and 85-87 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 53 and 55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: East search history.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The pre-amendment filed on 1/22/04 has been entered.

Claims 41, 50-56, 61-67, 69, 71-74, 76-79, 81-83, 85-87 are pending in the application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 53 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Briner (US Patent No 5,835,411).

Briner discloses a memory device comprising a plurality of reference memory subarrays (reference column, figure 1A), each of reference memory subarray including a plurality of reference memory cells (see column 3, lines 61-65), a plurality of reference sense amplifiers (read – biasing and amplifying circuit, figure 1A) for sensing the content of the reference memory cells.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 41, 50-52, 54, 56, 61-67, 69, 71-74, 76-79, 81-83, 85-87 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fail to teach or suggest a memory device comprising a reference array including a plurality of reference cells, a plurality of bit lines, a plurality of

Art Unit: 2824

common gate lines, a common line, a plurality of local sense amplifiers being coupled to the reference cells, a plurality of global bit lines, and a plurality of global sense amplifiers coupled to a group of global bit lines to generate an output signal indicative of a reference signals corresponding to the selected reference cell. .

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stiegler teaches a memory device having a plurality of reference memory cells.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1868.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2824

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S. Dinh  
July 24, 2006



Son T. Dinh  
Senior Examiner